

The Truk-Away Landfill (Landfill) property is located on Industrial Drive in Warwick, Kent County, Rhode Island. The property has an area of 52 acres, 16 of which are wetlands. Buckeye Brook flows northeast along the northern edge of the property. Buildings exist at the western edge of the Landfill property. There are private residences to the southwest along Bartlett Drive, and the T.F. Green State Airport is located to the north of the property. On the 36 acres that were used for waste disposal, oily wastes were disposed of to the west, medical wastes to the west and southeast, fly ash to the east, and mercury film packs to the south.

The Landfill property began accepting wastes in 1970 under the name Warwick Sanitary Landfill and was owned and operated by a private refuse collection company. The company changed its name to Truk-Away of Rhode Island, Inc. in 1976. The Landfill was closed in 1977 by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RI DOT) because birds attracted to the landfill interfered with air traffic at the T.F. Green State Airport. RI DOT assumed ownership of the property in 1977. In 1982, a former Landfill employee told the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM) that he oversaw the disposal of hundreds of drums containing chemical wastes. Also, in 1982, Ecology and Environment, Inc. conducted a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the Landfill property. During the PA, vapor sampling, which detected tetrachloroethylene and toluene, was conducted along leachate seeps coming from the Landfill. In response to public complaints, RI DEM collected samples from a pond bordering the Landfill. Analytical results indicated the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in surface water and three volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in sediment. In 1990, the Landfill was reportedly being used for illegal dumping of solid waste. The Division of Airports put Jersey barriers in front of the main gate to prevent access, but a 25-foot fence opening was noted at the Landfill's southern border in 1992. The Landfill is not lined and has not been officially closed. In 1993, Camp, Dresser, and McKee, Inc. conducted sediment and soil sampling, which indicated the presence of VOCs, semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), PCBs, and metals. The property is currently inactive.

The depth to groundwater ranges from 3 to 17 feet below ground surface (bgs), and the flow direction is to the east. There are no public wells within 4-radial miles of the Landfill property. According to the Warwick Water Department, the nearest private drinking water wells are located greater than 2 miles from the property. No known groundwater sampling has been conducted on or around the Landfill property. Based on the locations of the nearest drinking water supply wells, no impacts to drinking water sources are known or suspected.

Runoff from the Landfill property travels east towards Buckeye Brook, which flows 2.25 miles downstream to Old Mill Creek. Old Mill Creek flows 1 mile into Narragansett Bay. Sensitive environments located downstream of the property include wetlands, spawning brooks, coastal tidal areas, a Clean Water Act (CWA)-protected water body, habitat for federal-listed endangered species, and a sensitive area identified under the National Estuary Program. No drinking water intakes are known to exist downstream of the property. Narragansett Bay is considered a fishery. Analytical results of leachate vapors in 1982 and of surface water and sediment samples in 1990 and 1993 indicated the presence of VOCs, PCBs, and metals. Based on these results, a CWA-protected water body and greater than 0.1 miles of wetland frontage have been impacted.

There are no residents and no employees on the Landfill property. The nearest off-site residence to the property is along Bartlett Drive, south of the property. There are 1,324 people within 1-radial mile of the property. There are no known day-care facilities or schools within 200 feet of the property, and there are no on-site terrestrial sensitive environments. The property is surrounded by a fence, but there is a 25-foot breach along the southern boundary of the property. Dirt bike trails were noted during an on-site reconnaissance of the property in 1993. Analytical results for surface soil samples collected from the property in 1993 indicate the presence of VOCs, SVOCs, PCBs, and metals. Based on sampling data and on-site observations, impacts to nearby residential populations are unknown.

There are an estimated 19,606 people living within 4-radial miles of the Landfill property. There are an estimated 50 to 100 acres of wetlands within 0.25-radial miles of the property. No known laboratory-analyzed ambient air samples are known to have been collected from the property. Based on the available data, no impacts the nearby residential populations or sensitive environments are known or suspected.

As of the production of this summary, RI DEM has stated that a Preliminary Potentially Responsible Party Assessment is being conducted by the Rhode Island Airport Corporation in preparation for continued development of the property.

